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US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
Office of Public Affairs  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

September 10, 2015

**SUBJECT: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (NEPA Scoping Letter) for the: Department of Veterans Affairs Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Approximately 5.5 Acres of the Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division 7180 Highland Drive Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

To Whom It May Concern:

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing environmental documentation to assist in the Federal decision-making process concerning a proposed real estate land transfer from the Federal Government to the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs (the Proposed Action). The land associated with the Proposed Action (the Site) is approximately 5.51 acres of the 168-acre closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division (Highland Drive VAMC) campus. The Southwestern Veterans Center (SVC, 7060 Highland Drive), operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs (PDMA) Bureau of Veterans Homes, occupies approximately 10.5 acres of land located adjacent to the west of the closed Highland Drive VAMC property. The PDMA would use the 5.51-acre Site as a green space and unimproved land buffer for the SVC. The location of the Site is shown in Attachments 1A – 1C.

The Site consists of two parcels of undeveloped land. Lot A is located northerly adjacent to the SVC and consists of approximately 3.56 acres of grassy, moderately sloping land. Lot B is located easterly and southerly adjacent to the SVC and consists of approximately 1.95 acres of wooded, steeply sloping land. The Site has been owned by the Federal Government since 1948 and has remained undeveloped during this timeframe. The PDMA has no plans to develop or alter either parcel; upon completion of the real estate land transfer, the Site would remain undeveloped and serve as a land buffer for the SVC.

VA is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic issues associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code (USC) §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26 (*Environmental Analysis of VA Actions*)).

**Information Request:** *Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the Site) would be appreciated. Examples of such information include, but are not limited to:*

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed Site;
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- Natural resource issues;
- Soils and geologic data, including lists of hydric soils;
- Prime and unique farmland (*National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) only*);
- Traffic, noise, or socioeconomic concerns;
- Air quality concerns; and
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced Site.

Data that you make available will be used to scope the NEPA analysis and will provide valuable and necessary input into the Environmental Assessment process. As part of the NEPA process, local citizens, groups, and agencies, among others, will have opportunity to review and comment on the information and alternatives addressed in the EA.

**Other Agencies and Organizations:** A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in **Attachment 2**. *Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this project or Site, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.*


We look forward to and welcome your participation in this process. **Please respond by October 9, 2015** to enable us to complete this scoping phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe. TTL Associates, Inc. is assisting the VA in conducting this NEPA process.

**Please send your written responses via regular or e-mail (preferred) to:**

TTL Associates, Inc.  
44265 Plymouth Oaks Boulevard  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
ATTN: Paul J. Jackson, Environmental Scientist  
[pjackson@ttlassoc.com](mailto:pjackson@ttlassoc.com)

If you have any questions concerning this request, please direct them to Mr. Jackson at (734) 582-4960.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Jackson  
Environmental Scientist  
TTL Associates, Inc.

Attachment 1A – 1C: Site Location Maps

Attachment 2: List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted



**ATTACHMENTS 1A THROUGH 1C  
SITE LOCATION MAPS**

## ATTACHMENT 1A

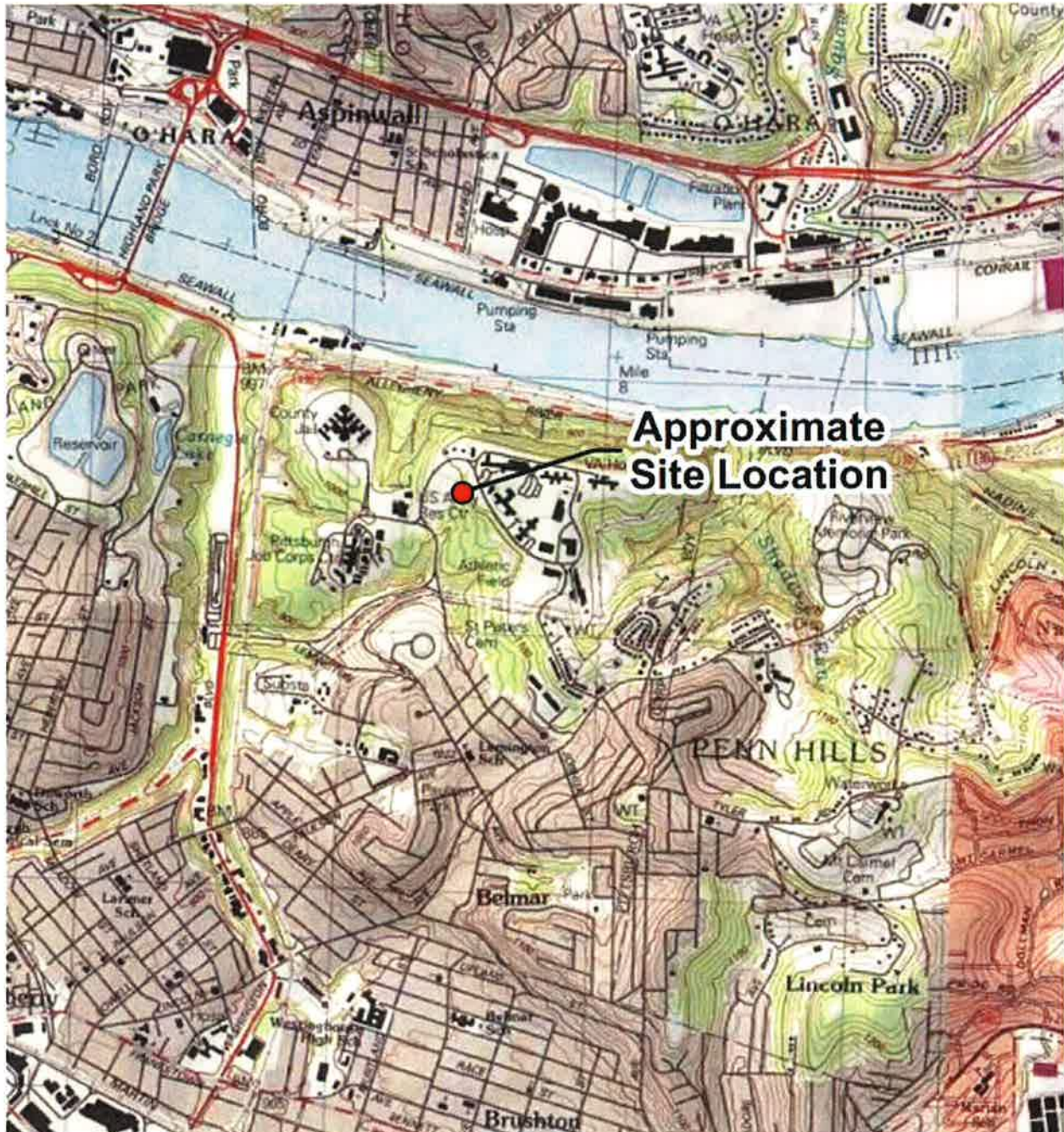
**SITE LOCATION MAP (STREET MAP)**  
**Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Approximately 5.5 Acres of the**  
**Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division**  
**7180 Highland Drive**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**





## ATTACHMENT 1B

**SITE LOCATION MAP (TOPOGRAPHIC MAP)**  
**Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Approximately 5.5 Acres of the**  
**Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division**  
**7180 Highland Drive**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**





## ATTACHMENT 1C

**SITE LOCATION MAP (2014 AERIAL MAP)**  
**Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Approximately 5.5 Acres of the**  
**Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division**  
**7180 Highland Drive**  
**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



**Attachment 2**  
**List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**NEPA Environmental Assessment**  
**Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Approximately 5.5 Acres of the**  
**Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division**  
**7180 Highland Drive**  
**Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Northeast Region**

Pennsylvania Field Office  
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801  
Phone: (814) 234-4090

**US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3**

Office of Public Affairs  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029  
Phone: (215) 814-5000

**US Army Corps of Engineers – Pittsburgh District**

2200 William S. Moorhead Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-4186  
Phone: (412) 395-7100

**Pennsylvania Department of Environment  
Protection**

Southwest Regional Office – Bureau of Air Quality  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Phone: (412) 442-4161

**Pennsylvania Department of Environment  
Protection**

Southwest Regional Office – Bureau of  
Environmental Cleanups and Brownfields  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Phone: (412) 442-4000

**Pennsylvania Department of Environment  
Protection**

Southwest Regional Office – Bureau of Waste  
Management  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Phone: (412) 442-4000

**Pennsylvania Department of Environment  
Protection**

Southwest Regional Office – Office of Water  
Management  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Phone: (412) 442-4000

**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**

Southwest Region Office  
236 Lake Road  
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501  
Phone: (814) 445-8974

**Pennsylvania Department of Transportation**

PennDOT Engineering District 11-1  
51 Fox Chapel Road  
P.O. Box 11352  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15238  
Phone: (412) 781-3260

**Pennsylvania State Historical and Museum  
Commission**

Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0093  
Phone: (717) 783-8946

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Butler Service Center  
625 Evans City Road  
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001-8704  
Phone: (724) 482-4800

**Allegheny County Conservation District**

River Walk Corporate Centre  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 325B  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 241-7645

**Attachment 2 (continued)**  
**List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**  
**NEPA Environmental Assessment**  
**Proposed Land Transfer to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**  
**Approximately 5.5 Acres of the**  
**Closed VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Highland Drive Division**  
**7180 Highland Drive**  
**Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

**City of Pittsburgh**

City Clerk's Office  
510 City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 255-2138

**City of Pittsburgh**

Public Works Office  
611 Second Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 255-2370

**City of Pittsburgh**

Historic Review Commission  
200 Ross Street, Fourth Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 255-2243

**City of Pittsburgh**

Department of City Planning  
200 Ross Street, Fourth Floor  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 255-2200

**City of Pittsburgh**

Urban Redevelopment Authority  
200 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219  
Phone: (412) 255-6600

**City of Pittsburgh**

Water and Sewer Authority  
Penn Liberty Plaza 1  
1200 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Phone: (412) 255-8800

**City of Pittsburgh**

Citiparks  
1047 Shady Avenue, Suite R3  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15232  
Phone: (412) 255-2539